

# **First Presbyterian Church Reopening Procedures for Indoor / In-Person Worship**

(Approved by Session, 11/20)

**All in-person gatherings include a risk for contracting COVID-19.** These procedures and protocols will help to provide a safer environment at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington for worshipers, volunteer leadership, and staff. It is very important that we all practice safe habits at church and during our weekly activities, including the 3 Ws: WEAR a mask, WAIT 6 feet apart, WASH your hands or use hand sanitizer.

- For safety reasons and to keep in line with the state’s strong recommendations for worshiping communities, our **maximum number of attendees is 50 at this time.**
- Worshipers will need to make a “reservation” through the office between Monday at 9 a.m. and Thursday at Noon (336-248-2140, ext. 201 or [office@fpclexc.com](mailto:office@fpclexc.com)) before the Sunday service if they wish to attend in person. **They must receive confirmation from Jeanna** in the office, either via email or by phone, to attend.
- **Those with underlying risks are encouraged to stay home and worship with us virtually.**
- **Face masks covering both mouth and nose are required for all persons 5 years of age and older.**
- Everyone shall be required to wear their face mask during the entire time they are in the church building.
- We will have *one* worship service at **11 a.m.**
- We will have ONE ENTRANCE and ONE EXIT.
- ENTER the church through the Third Avenue entrance.
- EXIT the church from the sanctuary out the front entrance of the church (facing Main Street). (NOTE: Anyone who needs a ramp may also exit from the Third Avenue entrance.)
- Upon entry from Third Avenue, there will be (2) greeters to check names for reservations, take each person’s temperature, and ensure that each person is wearing a mask properly. Those in line should maintain a physical distance from one another.
- **If the thermometer indicates the temperature is too high, that worshiper must leave the building immediately.**
- Worshipers will be escorted into the sanctuary and seated 6 feet from each other and 12 feet from the chancel area. **Members of the same household may be seated together.**
- **Worshipers will likely not end up in their “favorite pew.”** Please respect the seating arrangements.
- Bulletins and other handouts will not be provided, but may be downloaded and printed at home from the church’s website and brought with worshipers. Smart phones and tablets may also be used to follow along online in the order of worship.
- An usher will be assigned to take a photograph of the whole congregation to aid in contact tracing should the need arise. This photo may also be used for Facebook or website purposes.
- During worship, masks must remain on, **covering both nose and mouth.**
- There will be no singing by the congregation, but special singing and/or instrumental music may be allowed and will be planned by the pastor and music staff.
- **There will be no physical passing of the peace.**
- Attendees should participate in service responses **in a soft voice** to lessen spread of aerosols.
- At the end of the worship service, worshipers should check their pew and gather any personal items, including waste (i.e. tissues) or recycling (i.e. bulletin) and take these with them.
- Ushers will direct one row at a time to exit, beginning with the back of the sanctuary.
- An Offering Table will be in the Narthex to receive financial offerings of the worshipers as they exit the sanctuary.
- Face coverings are encouraged while outside on church property.
- Please limit socialization to properly-distanced hand waves, smiles with your eyes, and soft-spoken greetings while on church property.

NOTE: Bathrooms at the Third Avenue entrance and in the Narthex will be accessible throughout the worship service. Areas not to be used, such as drinking fountains, will be marked off. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed at entrance, in bathrooms, and at exit. All “touch points” at entrance, in sanctuary, and the Narthex have been sanitized prior to worship. Wash/sanitize your hands thoroughly and often to minimize spread of germs. Pew Bibles, hymnals, and other “communal” papers, pencils, etc. have been removed and safely stored elsewhere in the building.